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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 03403

STATE FOR RP/RAP AND EAP/VLC

GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PREF, UNHCR, VM
 SUBJECT: JANUARY 20 PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS

1. IN AN HOUR LONG PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED USIA SEPTTEL, CODEL MURKOWSKI REVEALED THAT THE ODP WAS "HUNG UP" BUT THAT PROSPECTS OF "GETTING BACK ON TRACK" WERE IN THE OFFING. SENATOR MURKOWSKI STATED THE "PROGRAM CURRENTLY IS STALLED TO THE EXTENT THERE HAS BEEN RECALL OF THE PEOPLE HANDLING THE INTERVIEWS". HE FURTHER SAID HE BELIEVED TALKS WITH THE VIETNAMESE ON ODP WOULD "RESUME" IN ONE OR TWO WEEKS. THE PRESS CONFERENCE CONFIRMED THAT MOVEMENT OUT OF VIETNAM WAS CONTINUING.
 2. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING ODP DIFFICULTIES WERE ASKED AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE. THEY WERE ANSWERED WITH PRESS GUIDANCE PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

3. WHILE WE MIGHT QUIBBLE WITH ASPECTS OF THE AP STORY PUBLISHED IN BANGKOK, IT IS BASICALLY A CORRECT, IF OVER SIMPLIFIED, ACCOUNT OF THE SITUATION.

4. THE MOST RECENT ODP PRESS GUIDANCE HAS IN PART BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE CONCERNING THE DATE, VENUE AND U.S. PARTICIPANTS IN THE UPCOMING TECHNICAL TALKS ON ODP.

BROWN
 END OF MESSAGE

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